



July 23, 2013

Hon. Fred Upton  
Chairman  
House Energy & Commerce Committee  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Henry Waxman  
Ranking Member  
House Energy & Commerce Committee  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Joe Pitts  
Chairman  
House Energy & Commerce  
Health Subcommittee  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member  
House Energy & Commerce  
Health Subcommittee  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Upton and Pitts, and Ranking Members Waxman and Pallone:

On behalf of the more than 45,000 members of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA), we commend you for releasing bipartisan draft legislation on July 18 repealing the Medicare sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula and reforming Medicare Part B payment, and urge you and your colleagues to continue advancing it through the legislative process.

As Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) providing 34 million anesthetics annually, our primary interest is in patient safety and access to cost-effective healthcare. We support the bill's provisions replacing the damaging SGR formula with a positive 0.5 percent Part B update for each of the next five years as refinements to quality measurement incentive systems and alternative payment systems are developed through open and publicly accountable processes. These payment adjustments are particularly important since the 2013 budget sequestration has taken 2.0 percent from this year's Part B payments and the SGR threatens additional 24 percent cuts beginning January 2014. We also thank the Committee for accepting our evidence-based recommendation that quality measures, quality reporting and incentive payment systems treat CRNAs the same as physicians when the same service is provided.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues to refine technical and fiscal aspects of this legislation, and to oppose amendments that would increase costs and reduce choice by impairing patient access to CRNAs and other Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) or constraining their full scope of practice. Notably, Medicare coverage of patient-centered medical home services should reflect APRN state scope of practice. We remain at your service, and would be happy to answer questions. Please direct them to our AANA Federal Government Affairs office, to Frank Purcell, 202-741-9080, [fpurcell@aanadc.com](mailto:fpurcell@aanadc.com), and thank you.

Sincerely,

Janice J. Izlar, CRNA, DNAP  
President

cc: Wanda O. Wilson, CRNA, PhD, AANA Executive Director  
Frank J. Purcell, AANA Senior Director of Federal Government Affairs